



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1931

HAMFEST 2023
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THE ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2023

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023
AT THE

HILTON EXEMPT CLUB

137 SOUTH AVE
HILTON, NEW YORK 14468

RVs are welcome the evening before, Friday June 2, @6 PM no hook ups.
RV parking will be in the main flea market area

Check the [RARA web site](#) for more details

RAFFLE

Yaesu FT-710
BTECH DMR-6X2 PRO
Samlex SEC-1235P-M
Ham Radio Deluxe Gift Certificate

Admission:

RARA Members are FREE
Non-members: \$10
Under 18 years of age: FREE

Flea Market Opens: 8AM
Vendor Entry: 7AM

Talk-in: 146.550 Simplex, no PL

K2JD

N2EH

W2EOC

RARA



YouTube

GREETINGS FROM THE HAMFEST COMMITTEE

We're excited to invite you to another excellent event! As you've seen on the cover, our hamfest location will be the Hilton Exempt Club (137 South Ave, Hilton, NY 14468) again this year. There will be signs at the nearest intersections to help guide you in. Gates will open at 7 AM for flea market vendors and 8 AM for the general public on Saturday, June 3rd.

We expect that we will have sufficient parking for the event. Please park close together to leave room for as many other attendees as possible. There are separate areas for the flea market and general parking.

If you are not selling items in the flea market, please park in the general parking area which is labeled "free parking" on the diagram. We are not charging any parking fees, you may only need to buy an admission ticket because tickets are free to RARA members, those under 18 years of age, or college students with a student ID.

Overnight RV or trailer parking is available beginning Friday June 2nd at 6 PM (Please see page 3 for additional information on bringing an RV.)

Bring your RARA membership card to speed the ticketing process. The admission team will also have a list of current members.

Both breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase on-site. We will have VEs proctoring FREE exams from 9 AM till 11AM. Of course, there will be hundreds of other hams to socialize with, learn from, and get a great deal on something they don't need anymore.

The event is in a field. The grass will be mowed down, but be prepared for an imperfect surface.

Please keep an eye on <https://rochesterham.org/hamfest.htm> for any last-minute updates or send an e-mail to hfproducer@rochesterham.org with any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely, Your Hamfest Committee:
Tim Guyot
Mike Moore
Dave Mitchell

ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2023 SCHEDULE

7:00 AM	Flea Market opens for sellers to set up
6:00 AM	Breakfast Service Opens
8:00 AM	Flea market and general parking open
9:00 AM	Door Prize Drawings
9:00AM	VE Session Starts
10:00 AM	Door Prize Drawings
11:00 AM	Door Prize Drawings
11:30 AM	Talk-in Prize Drawing
12:00 AM	Door Prize Drawings
12:30 PM	Grand Bucket Prize Drawing
1:00 PM	Lunch Service Closes
2:00 PM	Hamfest Close

NOTES FOR RVs / CAMPERS

1. Arrival – No earlier than 6:00 PM on Friday June 2, 2022. Please see a volunteer or the on-site security guard for specific parking instructions.
2. Departure – No later than 3:30 PM on Saturday June 3, 2022.
3. There is no overnight fee. RVs that arrive on Friday will be charged for their attendees (\$7/person) on Saturday morning.
4. There are no utilities (water/electric/waste) available. Please minimize generator use at night as the venue backs up to a neighborhood. Porta-Potties are available on site.
5. Antennas are permitted (reasonable size).
6. All trash must be placed in dumpster/containers provided.
7. Leave the area in no worse condition than when you arrived.
8. No loud noise is permitted at anytime.
9. No fires of any kind are permitted on the grounds.
10. Quiet between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM.
11. Refer any issues/concerns to the on-site security guard.
13. Be considerate of the residential areas around you.

ADMISSION

Admission to the hamfest is FREE for RARA members and \$10 for non-members. Those under 18 years of age or with a college ID are free. Please have the correct change if possible as this will help speed up the entry process. If you are a member, bring your membership card. If you have never received one, don't worry – the admission team will have a list of current members.

General parking is free. Flea market parking is free.

DOOR PRIZES

We have some very exciting door prizes. Ticket stubs will be collected at the gate (when you purchase your ticket) and periodically brought to the raffle table and placed in the door prize drum.

There will be prize drawings every hour from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and the winning ticket numbers will be displayed at the Raffle Table so make sure you remember to check that often! We will announce the winners over the PA system.

You must be at least 18 years old to participate .

Present your winning entry ticket at the Raffle Table to receive your prize.

You must be present to win.

LICENSE EXAMS

We will have exams for two hours, from 9:00AM to 11:00AM Saturday June 4th.

You must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN), the FCC is no longer accepting SSNs for this purpose. If you don't have one, you can go here <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/regEntityType.do>

What you need to know:

- **Pre-Registration is highly recommended.** Please make it easier for our volunteers by signing up at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/62162f49b94ed86bbe7b4676/1>
- **Mask, pen, picture ID required.** Pencil and calculator (optional), but they will NOT be supplied.
- **RARA and Laurel VEC do not charge anything** to administer, process, or file your exams. However, as of April 19th, the FCC will charge a \$35 fee for new licenses. The information about this fee is e-mailed by the FCC once the paperwork is filed and is NOT collected at the exam. More info from the ARRL on this <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>
- **The FCC requires an e-mail address.** This is usually shared with RARA, but the examiners will not share this information if you request it be withheld.
- If you are ONLY attending for an exam and not the rest of the hamfest, there is no entry fee. Let someone at the entrance know and they'll escort you to the exam room.

2023 RARA EDUCATIONAL GRANT CONTRIBUTION

RARA established a grant to provide funding for educational projects and specific equipment needs that promote practical applications in the STEM fields of electronics and radio communications with an emphasis on youth-based activities.

In 2022 RARA awarded the grant to the Antique Wireless Association for a trailer that will be used to extend the AWA Radio Fab Lab program and provide on-site sessions at area schools. In 2018, the grant was awarded to the FIRST Lego Robotics program at St. Louis School where the equipment served 20 students in its first year.

This year we are putting \$2 of each paid hamfest admission into the grant account to help fund future initiatives of this type.

THE RARA RAG

2023 HAMFEST EDITION



PRIZE SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Door Prize

- Prepper Communications (book)
- Tech Class Study Guide (book)
- MFJ-261 Dummy Load
- MFJ-1712S Telescopic HT Antenna
- MFJ-107B LCD Clock
- Heil Ham Radio Handbook
- Heil T Shirt
- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate
- Pilsner Glasses
- ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate

10:00 AM Door Prize

- How To Get On HF (book)
- General Class Study Guide (book)
- MFJ-270 Surge Protector
- MFJ-16C06 Ceramic Insulators
- CQ Magazine 1 year Digital Subscription
- Heil T Shirt
- Heil T Shirt
- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate
- DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate
- ARRL \$50 Gift Certificate

11:00 AM Door Prize

- How To Chase, Work & Confirm DX (book)
- QRP Quarterly Magazine 1 year Subscription
- MFJ-700C4 RFI Choke
- MFJ-107B LCD Clock
- CQ Magazine 1 year Digital Subscription
- Heil T Shirt
- Heil Heritage Microphone
- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate
- DX Engineering \$100 Gift Certificate
- ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate

12:00 PM Door Prize

- Extra Class Study Guide
- N3FPJ Software Certificate
- MFJ-1712S Telescopic HT Ant
- MFJ-107B LCD Clock
- Heil Ham Radio Handbook
- Heil T Shirt (L)
- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate
- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate

11:30 AM Talk In Prize

- SMA-24 Antenna

12:30 PM Grand Bucket Prize

- DMR-6X2 PRO
- FT-710
- SEC-1235P-M
- Ham Radio Deluxe Gift Certificate

THE BUCKET RAFFLE

In addition to door prizes we have a Bucket Raffle with four great prizes.

To enter the Bucket Raffle you may buy as many raffle tickets as you like and put each one in the bucket for the prize of your choice. If you wish, you can put all your tickets in the same bucket or go for a wider range of possible prizes by putting tickets in several buckets. It's completely up to you.

- BTECH DMR-6X2 PRO
- YaesuFT-710
- Samlex AmericaSEC-1235P-M
- Ham Radio Deluxe Gift Certificate

Raffle tickets are :

- \$1 each
- 6 for \$5
- 13 for \$10.

You can buy them at the Raffle Table in the main building until 12:15 PM.

You must be at least 18 years old to participate.

The drawing for the Bucket Raffle prizes will take place at 12:30PM. **You do not have to be present to win**, just make sure you have put your contact details on the raffle ticket before you drop it in the bucket of your choice.

Print Clearly. If we can't read it, you can't win.

If your details are up to date on QRZ.com or with the FCC then your call sign will be enough to identify you.

TALK-IN PRIZE

- As you are traveling to the hamfest, there will be a Talk-In station on 146.550 Simplex, no PL. When you check in with the talk-in station you will be eligible for a prize of a SMA-24 Antenna
- **You must be present to win.** The drawing will take place at 11:30AM. The winner will be announced on the PA.



Other Attractions While You Are In Rochester



[Charlotte – Genesee Lighthouse](#)
[Eastman Museum](#)
[Eastman Theater](#)
[Kilbourn Hall](#)
[Strong National Museum of Play](#)
[Rochester Museum and Science Center](#)
[Red Wing Baseball](#)
[Memorial Art Gallery](#)
[Susan B. Anthony House](#)
[Geva Theater](#)
[Seneca Park Zoo](#)
[Strasenburgh Planetarium](#)
[University of Rochester](#)
[Rochester Institute of Technology](#)
[Nazareth College Art Center](#)
[Seabreeze Amusement Park](#)

2023 BUCKET RAFFLE PRIZES

BUCKET PRIZE #1



Yaesu FT-710 AESS
100 W HF/50 MHz Base/Portable Transceiver w/SP-40 Speaker

BUCKET PRIZE #2



BTECH DMR-6X2 PRO
7W 2m/70cm DMR and Analog Radio
with built-in GPS, Bluetooth, APRS, and
Recording

BUCKET PRIZE #3



SEC-1235P-M
30 Amp Switching Power Supply with
Backlit Meter

BUCKET PRIZE #4



Ham Radio Deluxe Gift Certificate

A HEAD START ON ARRL AWARD APPLICATION AT THE ROCHESTER HAMFEST

Ed Gable K2MP, RARA Historian

On June 3rd, area Amateurs will once again be gifted by having their superb Amateur Radio Club providing a great service to their membership, the **Rochester Hamfest**, sponsored by RARA. Hamfest details will be found in recent RARA Rags as well as the special Hamfest Edition of the Rag, so I will not go into particulars here. A feature of the hamfest is that your applications for DXCC, WAS, and VUCC awards can be checked right on site Saturday morning, inside the Firemen's Ex-empt Building. My purpose here is to assist area Amateurs wishing to apply for such awards to get a head start on the process.

There are 3 ways to apply for ARRL awards: **Note: 160 meter cards are allowed**

1. Logbook of The World (LoTW)
2. The Online DXCC Application
3. Traditional paper cards
(Submitted to DXCC directly or approved by a card checker)

The hybrid application submission (paper cards combined with Logbook of the World) has been discontinued. Each submission is now a separate application with separate fees for each one.

By far a 100% LoTW application is the most convenient and least expensive DXCC, WAS and VUCC application as it can be processed entirely by the applicant without paper QSL card approvals. As this paper is written to help those needing paper QSL's approved at the Rochester Hamfest, I will only provide LoTW general information here. You must go to the ARRL website to set up your personal LoTW account as described below.

WHAT IS LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD?

LoTW is a secure, central repository of logs from ham operators around the world. One of the main features is it will allow DXCC, WAS and VUCC program participants to claim credit without the need for having a QSL card in hand. If, after reading the information and FAQ's on LoTW you still have unresolved questions, send an e-mail to: Lotw-help@arrl.org

For complete information on LogBook of the World, and to get started, please visit this site:

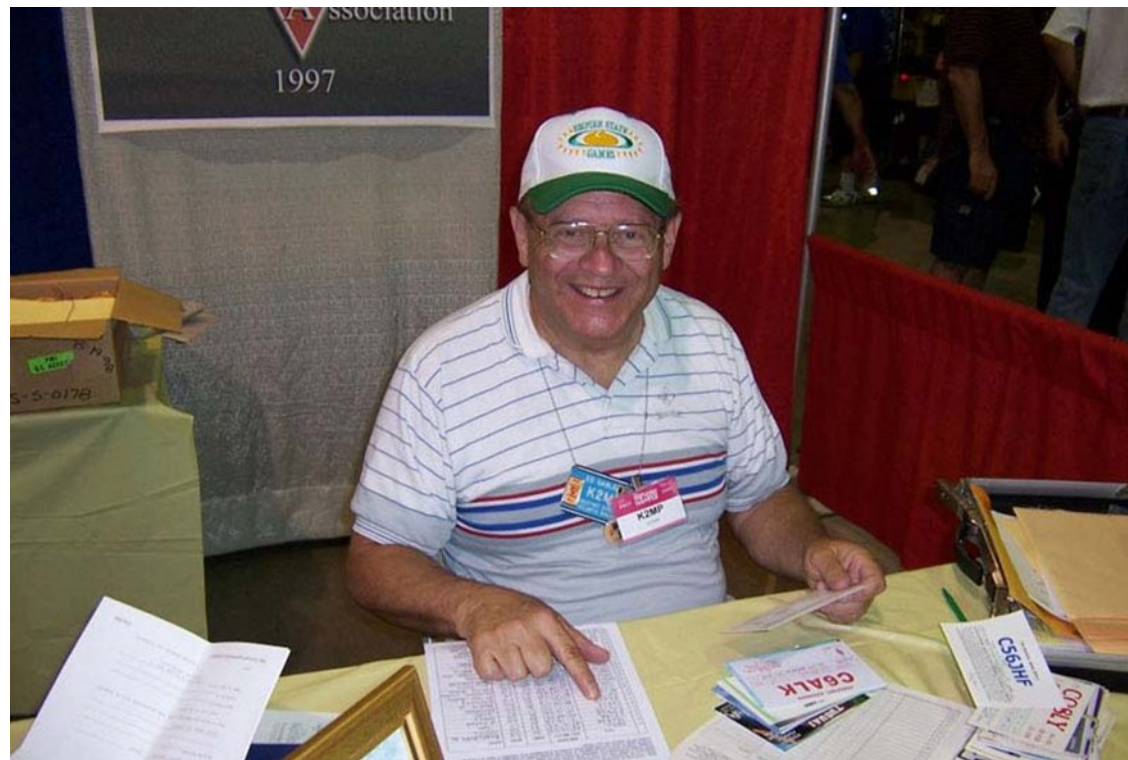
<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

On-line applications for WAS and VUCC also need a LoTW account set up and links run between your WAS and VUCC Award data sections. After setting up those links the processing of award applications is easy and the most cost effective way of obtaining ARRL sponsored awards.

ONLINE DXCC APPLICATION

The ARRL's new Online Award tool is used to accept applications, allowing hams to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form to apply for a new DXCC award or endorsement. Application using Online DXCC is easier than making a paper application, saving both time and money.

Using the Online DXCC Application, the user can select the cards that he or she would like to have checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC. When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ. The card checker's job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the participant has worked that out with the card checker), as the



Ed Gable K2MP, ARRL Award Field Checker

client can pay online. Once submitted, DXCC staff can access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

Advantages of submitting your DXCC application using Online DXCC include:

Cost: The application fees are lower when submitting a DXCC application through Online DXCC. In particular, the application fee and the extra QSO fee for Online DXCC are half those of a traditional paper application.

Accuracy: Making a DXCC submission with Online DXCC is more accurate than a paper application that is filled out by hand because typographical errors are eliminated (except for the call sign). There will be no data entry errors at ARRL HQ because the contents of an Online DXCC application are transmitted directly to the DXCC system at HQ.

Speed: Making a DXCC submission using Online DXCC speeds up the processing of an application because the information on the DXCC Award Application and the DXCC Record Sheet do not have to be manually entered into the DXCC system by ARRL HQ staff. The more applicants who use this system means there is a smaller backlog of applications and a faster turnaround for all DXCC program participants.

Convenience: The Online DXCC system will save the entered QSL card and application information for future access. You may enter information from your QSLs as you receive them and then submit your cards for checking when you are ready to apply for a DXCC award or endorsement. Cards no longer need to be in band or mode order.

Keep in mind that QSL cards will still need to be checked if you use the Online DXCC Application, either by a DXCC Card Checker or sent to ARRL HQ for checking.

The on-line form where data is inputted is at:

<https://p1k.arrl.org/onlinedxcc/records.php>

Be sure to pay **CLOSE** attention to your data entry. Check each entry to be sure you have entered the correct callsign, accurate date, band and mode and that you have selected the correct entity. Data mismatches will almost always cause a problem and may result in a QSO being rejected.

After completing your online DXCC, WAS, VUCC application, you may bring your cards and forms to a local ARRL card checker: **Ed Gable K2MP**, Hilton, NY, (585) 392-3088, or send in the paperwork and cards to the ARRL DXCC Desk, or best yet come to the **Rochester Hamfest on June 1st** for a real hands-on experience. Ed will be set up inside the Firemen's Exempt Building. 160 meter cards can be checked.

If mailing cards to ARRL, package the cards securely, protect the cards from moisture, and use a trackable shipping method.

Ship to:

ARRL - DXCC Desk
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494
USA

DO I NEED AN APPLICATION FORM WITH EACH SUBMISSION?

Yes. The DXCC application form tells us what you are applying for and provides us with your current mailing address. The current application forms are always available free from the Awards portion of the ARRL website. Complete all sections including: what you are applying for (endorsements, new certificates, etc.), your personal information, the return address information, fees section, telephone number and e-mail, the number of cards and QSOs included.

ARRL membership is required for DXCC applicants in the US, its possessions, and Puerto Rico.

WHAT DO "NEW" AND "ENDORSEMENT" MEAN ON THE APPLICATION?

This part of the application form tells DXCC staff whether you are applying for a new award (certificate) or an endorsement (building totals on existing award(s)).

NEW indicates that a certificate is expected from the submission. More than one **NEW** award (certificate) can be applied for on a single application.

ENDORSEMENT indicates that an applicant is building credits on an existing award or awards. Please do not use **ENDORSEMENT** if you do not have an award on the bands or modes. If you are building totals towards future awards, leave this blank.

HOW CAN I VERIFY THAT MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT HQ?

Applications logged into the DXCC computer system are listed on the DXCC Applications Received page. Call signs are listed alpha-numerically. Next to the call sign is the date the application was logged into the DXCC computer. The date noted may not be the date the application was received by ARRL; it only reflects the date that it was logged into the DXCC computer.

TRADITIONAL PAPER APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you do not use LogBook of the World (LoTW) or the new Online DXCC application system you are still welcome to use the old traditional paper application procedure. Two forms are required with each submission:

The first needed form is the Application Form

When filling out the Application form be sure to read it thoroughly and fill in all places where it asks for information. All information on the form is strictly confidential and usually within a few months of completion of the application the forms are shredded. Forms with credit card data noted on them are shredded quicker.

Before getting started be sure the cards you are submitting are new and not duplicates. (After 101 QSOs there is a fee of \$0.15 per QSO so sorting out any dupes will save you some money and for DXCC staff unnecessary processing time).

The second needed form is the Record Sheet

On the Record Sheet Your cards *MUST* be sorted in the following order:

1. Band: 80 mtr, then 40 mtr, then 20 mtr, etc.
2. Mode within each band; 80 SSB, then 80 CW, then 40 SSB, then 40 Data, then 20 SSB, and the like matching your QSL information.
3. Cards with more than one QSO (multiples) keep together at the end. There is no specific sort order for multiples.

Once sorted, list the cards on the record sheet in exactly the same order in which they were sorted.

Note: Do not sort card(s) by callsign or by entity (country) name.

Sorting and listing your cards according to these rules helps streamline the data entry process.

Once you have sorted the cards print the record sheet and begin logging them. Check your entries very carefully to make sure the information you transferred from the card to the record sheet is 100% accurate. Go slowly and pay attention to detail. If you do not check entries carefully and problems develop, this could cause errors in processing or even cause a card to be rejected.

If you have generated a record sheet from a personal program other than the one attached here, it is OK to use your personal version, however, it must match the DXCC version exactly without any extraneous data or fields (eg: prefix, RST etc). Personally, produced forms not matching the DXCC version exactly may be refused. When using non-DXCC versions also be sure that the date field matches the DXCC version, exactly.

The correct format is:
day/month/year or dd/mm/yyyy.

After all of your paperwork has been generated you are ready to submit the application directly to ARRL HQ Award desk or via a field check point.

Some portions of this paper have been generated using text from the ARRL website and printed here with permission.

DXCC Costs

Paper Cards Application	Member (US)	Member (Int'l)	Non-Member (Non US)
Application fee	\$16	\$16	\$25
Included QSOs	101	101	101
Fee for extra QSOs	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15
Fee for printout of your DXCC entities list	\$2	\$5	\$5
Certificate Fee	\$12	\$12	\$12
Certificate shipping fee (up to four certificates)	\$5	\$15	\$15
Lapel Pin Fee (includes shipping)	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50

Online DXCC Application	Member (US)	Member (Int'l)	Non-Member (Non US)
Application fee	\$8	\$8	\$15
Included QSOs	101	101	101
Fee for extra QSOs	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08
Fee for printout of your DXCC entities list	\$2	\$5	\$5
Certificate Fee	\$12	\$12	\$12
Certificate shipping fee (up to four certificates)	\$5	\$15	\$15
Lapel Pin Fee (includes shipping)	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50

(Chart continued on the next page)

Logbook of the World Application	Member (US)	Member (Int'l)	Non-Member (Non US)
Application fee	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$10
Fee for extra QSO used in LoTW	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.12
Fee for printout of your DXCC entities list	N/A	N/A	N/A
Certificate Fee	\$12	\$12	\$12
Certificate shipping fee (up to four certificates)	\$5	\$15	\$15
Lapel Pin Fee (includes shipping)	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50

Payment for DXCC applications is due at the time of the submission. After we complete the charges, your credit card information is destroyed for privacy reasons

PRICING TO SELL (IN THE FLEA MARKET)

There are two goals when it comes to Flea Market success:

- Making it easy for buyers to know what you brought.
- Going home without it.



Here is a guide for doing both, effectively!

First...

... research the market-worth of the item you wish to sell. An easy way is to check e-Bay...but NOT for the reason that you think.

Items on e-Bay that are unsold are OVERPRICED. Those that sell did so because they have a national audience. If you want to sell at the RARA Rochester Hamfest, consider a price that is NO HIGHER than 70% of those found on e-Bay as your ASKING price...knowing that you WILL be asked to take something less (and be prepared to!).

This is not a reflection on your value. It is a reflection on the markets' value. You brought it to the Flea Market to sell...not to go home with. Selling early lets you scour the market for a deal of your own to go home with!

Second...

... label your asking price for your items, individually. A sign that says "Make Offer" without an asking price really means "I don't want to sell it".

Third...

... along with being prepared with an asking price, attach a 3x5 card with a few short bullets about the items' specifications. No more than 3 bullets. People are walking-by. Most won't take the time to read a paragraph.

Fourth...

... be ready to talk about what you have. Those bulleted lists will simply start conversations. After that, it is up to you to make it easy to go home without it (the reason you came!).

In conclusion, as you prepare to sell in the Flea Market try to remember that you are there to "go home without it". Your connection to the item has already been paid for by the years of great service that the item has already given to you. You are giving the next owner the opportunity to start building their own memories. Set a price that will allow them to start doing so right away!



BUY AND SELL AT THE COUNTRY STORE



Not a RARA member? No problem, you are welcome!

There are lots of good deals inside !!

General

Only ham radio related items, please. Leave the junk box at home. No loose parts, no used coax. (We reserve the right to reject consignment items.)

All items should be reasonably (honestly) valued at no less than \$25.

The Country Store opens to receive Donations and Consignments at 6:45AM. You can also come at any time during the morning to drop off equipment. You only need to complete simple paperwork to document your item/s, see page 24. The sooner the better for the early crowd buyers.

Because space is limited, please limit yourself to 3 or 4 items.

Terms: Cash sales only. All sales are final. The cashier will settle all transactions in whole dollars.

Donations Accepted !!

Feeling Generous? Donate a useful item to RARA!

Proceeds from your donation can be directed towards RARA operations for programs such as Public Service events, Ham License classes and VE Testing and the RARA Academy, or to our Educational Grant fund. Your choice.

Please complete the Country Store Item Description form before you arrive.

Consignments -- We sell your stuff for you !

Country Store consignments are available to both members and non-members.

Bring a radio, power supply, antenna, tuner, test equipment or accessory that another ham can put to good use. Take the time to wipe it down and test it.

Complete the Country Store Item Description form before you arrive.

We will do our best to represent your item/s to potential buyers. But the Country Store Staff won't haggle with a customer. If someone has a good question we can't answer, we'll try to contact you via your paperwork info. Bring your HT or Cell Phone for contacts.

Pricing advice: Ignore any eBay "Buy It Now" price. Set your price NO HIGHER than 70% of the eBay settlement price. (Use an Advanced Search to find similar items that actually sold.) Of course, some highly prized items will sell for more. Judge wisely.

RARA will receive a 10% commission on each consignment item sales price. The commission will be rounded to the nearest dollar.

Settlement

All consignors must stop by the Country Store no later than 2:00PM to collect the proceeds of their sale(s) or to retrieve their unsold item(s).

The Country Store is Carry In, Carry Out: If your item does not sell then you must take it home unless we explicitly accept it as a donation.

2023 Door Prizes



Heil Ham Radio Handbook



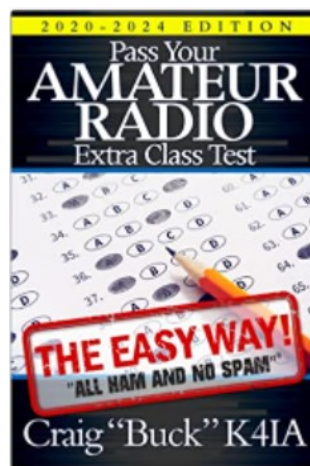
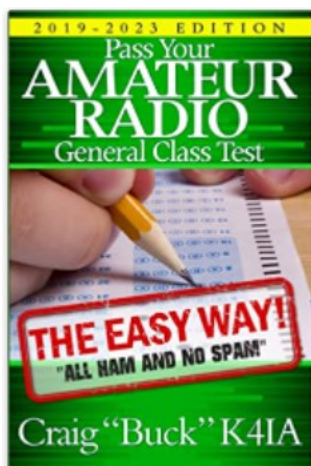
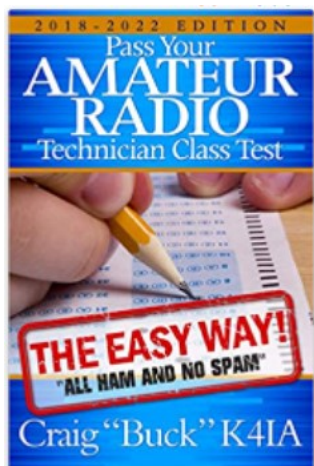
Heil T Shirt



Heil Heritage Microphone



Comet Pilsner Glass



MFJ-261 Dummy Load

**α ALPHA[®]
ANTENNA**

Five \$100 Gift Certificates

**DX[®]
ENGINEERING**

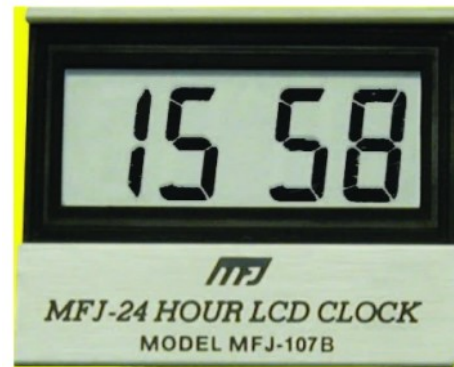
Two \$100 Gift Certificates



SMA-24 Antenna



1 Year Subscription



Three MFJ-107B LCD Clock



Software Package Gift Certificate



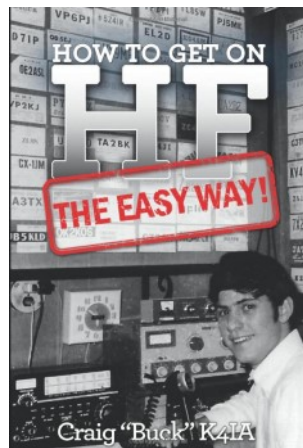
MFJ-16C06 Ceramic Insulators



MFJ-700C4 RFI Suppression Choke



MFJ-1712S Telescopic HT Antenna



Two \$25 Gift Certificates

One \$50 Gift Certificates



Two Digital Subscriptions

THE HISTORY OF ROCHESTER HAMFESTS

©Ed Gable K2MP RARA Historian
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Note: This article was written in 2019

Rochester area Amateur Radio Operators, and indeed those reaching the far corners of the Northeast United States and beyond, have been blessed with having in their back yard a wonderful Hamfest to serve their needs for some eighty-nine years. The first recorded hamfest was brought by the Radio Club of Rochester (1921-1931) on August 5, 1927, and except for the war years and a burp in 2014, has been an annual event ever since.

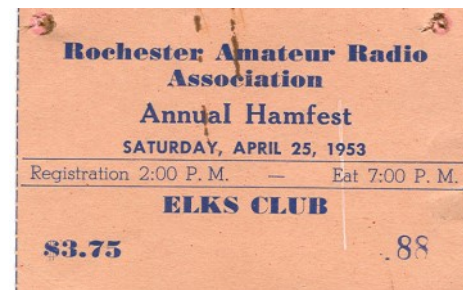
It should be noted that Hamfests of the late twenties and through the thirties were much different affairs than one is used to today. Indeed there were no floor displays by vendors, nor were there flea markets and seminars. This is because the venues tended to be formal places such as the ballrooms of the Sagamore, Powers and Seneca hotels, The Elks Club and even a formal meeting hall at the Central Rochester Y.M.C.A. The dress was strictly suit and tie and dresses for the ladies. There was good fellowship, great meals with the obligatory guest speaker and if lucky you might win a door prize, perhaps a vacuum tube from Rochester Radio Supply.

I mentioned the lack of hamfests during the war years of WW2, but that didn't mean there were no gatherings; they were just much more informal and often consisted of good natured bowling ball tournaments between VHF'ers and DX'ers at the Ledarkrantz Club. The last of these pre-war style hamfests was in 1953, at the Elks Club in Rochester. It was there that organizers realized they were running out of room for the expanding popularity of the events and the need for room to expand into additional activities. Enter the era of the Doud Post.

In 1954, Hamfest Chairman Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, took the move to expand and found a very workable venue in the American Legion Doud Post on Buffalo Road. It had lots of parking, plenty of display and conference rooms as well as a nice banquet hall. The change in venue also brought a name change to "The Western New York Hamfest." It also had a price tag where a full day's event could be had for a ticket costing just \$3.75. That location turned out to be the right



1935 Sagamore Hotel Banquet



place at the right time and the Hamfest just grew and grew over the ten years it was held there.

One very interesting historical fact; in 1954, Chairman Kelley was chatting with some attendees when the VHF program Chairman, Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, came running in and excitedly said "Bruce, Bruce... there's someone outside in the parking lot selling stuff out the back of his car." "What kind of stuff" Bruce asked. "Just some old ham gear and parts," replied Hank. "Sounds like a clever idea," Bruce exclaimed, "we'll allow that." And that, gentle readers, was the start of Hamfest Flea Marketing, right here in Rochester, New York.



Flea Market, 1962

Success brought the need to change again as the Doud Post became too small to handle larger crowds and in 1964, the WNY Hamfest moved to Vince's 50 Acres on Route 15, south of Rochester. This proved to be an OK spot although many felt it wasn't a Rochester event being so far out of town and it wasn't a very large parking lot for what was becoming a very important Flea Market area.

Toward the end of the six year stay at Bristol 50 Acres (formerly Vince's 50 Acres) a few important events took place. The most important and impacting was the entry of a gentleman small in stature but big in ideas and the ability to get things done; Mr. Harold Smith, WA2KND (K2HC). Harold would become the most tireless, the hardest working and the most successful Hamfest General Chairman for the next 40 years.

Another change, recognizing the movement in ham radio interests, was again changing the name to "The Western New York Hamfest and VHF Conference." Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, didn't go away; he gravitated to what he learned to do very well during his twelve years as head of the Antique Wireless Association, and that was how to gather important people to join the hamfest roster. Try these names that Bruce brought in for size; Bill Halligan, W9AC, founder/President of Hallicrafters, Ed Tilton, Editor, QST, (sitting with) Wayne Green, W2NSD, Managing Editor CQ Magazine, Sam Harris, W1FZJ, of Moon Bounce fame, Katachi Nose, KH6IJ, of DX fame and many more.

1970, saw the last Hamfest at Bristol 50 Acres. Behind the scenes Harold Smith was urging the old committee to do it right and make a permanent move. That commitment concluded with Harold signing a contract with the Monroe County Fairgrounds and Dome Arena for the 1971, Western New York Hamfest and VHF Conference, the start of something BIG, very BIG, that would continue for thirty-seven years!

Big ideas, a large venue and much financial success fostered growth. Hamfest planning brought two day and then three day Hamfests in the early seventies. Larger attendance, in the thousands, created interest by both national and international vendors as well as dignitaries eager to add having been part of the Rochester Hamfest to their Resumes. This writer remembers well, when deciding to upgrade to a high end SSB transceiver, finding the best of Kenwood, ICOM and Yaesu not only on display but operating with an invite to twiddle the knobs. Where else could a farm boy from Hilton find such a thing other than a trip to Dayton?

Large attendance also caught the eye of ARRL officials in Newington. During the peak period of the Rochester Hamfest dynasty, the ARRL Headquarters might just as well have locked their doors as all the officials were in Rochester. They loved it here and were eager to put on programs by League staffers and ARRL Forums by officers and Atlantic Division Directors and Western New York officials.

The early eighties brought another name change: "The Rochester Hamfest combined with the Atlantic Division and New York State ARRL Convention." We

just knew it as the Rochester Hamfest.

A Notable event happened in 1975, when John Schooly, W2BLU, took on the difficult task of convincing the FCC that they should get out of their Buffalo offices and come to Rochester to give exams. With red tape finally torn aside, John was successful and for the first time, and way before VE programs, the FCC came to the Rochester Hamfest and under the eagle eye of FCC examiners, performed code and theory exams. That's how this Hilton farm boy went from W2MPM to K2MP. Where else but the Rochester Hamfest? Are you getting the idea of what a wonderful service a good Hamfest is to the local Amateur Radio community?



KH6IJ & W2ICE 1954

But then there was the year that success caught the eye of one not too friendly when in 1981, the NYS Sales tax folks paid a visit to the crowded and very busy Flea Market. They were looking for seller's sales tax documents and looking to see if NYS tax was being collected. The result was effectively closing the Flea Market. Conferences with the tax department concluded they overstated the need for documents and that the once a year Flea Market should have been treated as a casual sale, not unlike a garage sale. But the damage was done and it took a couple of years to fully recover. In 1982, the Hamfest Brochure was complete with a Sales Tax warning that all participants were responsible for their own activities.

Then, as now, the Hamfest was an all volunteer organization with participation by RARA Members. Notable were the hard working and proud wearers of their badge of honor saying they were a "Holdsworth Coolie." Think of this. The Thursday before a Friday opening Holdsworth Coolies, under the direction of Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, arrived at the Dome Arena to find a large cavernous empty building that in only hours had to be converted into a massive display area ready for vendors to move into. N2EH would give directions to groups moving tables, installing drapes, marking floors and it just got done. Oh, yeh, they got lunch.

For year after year the Hamfest served its customers, the Amateurs of the area, very well. In the Y2K era things began to change and once started events happened quickly. The most notable, in my mind, is how we disseminated information and purchased our wares. If we wanted to learn the latest DX news, or how to connect our Packet TNC, we just jumped on the world-wide web and got an immediate response. There was less and less a need to attend a Hamfest Seminar.

Of bigger impact was how we purchased our ham gear. Touch and feel was great, but so much information and reports of user experience was easily obtained on the web. Then, too, if you bought an expensive transceiver from a hamfest vendor you had to pay sales tax. Buy it on-line from many new and competitive sources could and did save a lot of money. Vendors, seeing the handwriting on the wall, stopped expensive hamfest selling in a very short amount of time. During that time the Dome Arena became less and less occupied by desirable ham vendors and we saw smaller vendors selling everything from table lamps to VHS tapes just to fill empty spots.

Then, too, the profile of a Hamfest attendee was changing with the times. People were less interested in a Banquet type of event with sit down dinners, distribution of awards and guest speakers, even good ones. And those events were expensive and toward the end were not profitable, although that was not necessarily a goal as long as the entire event stayed in the black. Toward the end of the Dome arena era it was the Flea Market that was the draw but that could not sustain the cost of the Fairground and Conference Hotel.

In 2007, the Fairgrounds underwent a complete renovation and Chairman Harold Smith, K2HC, thought an all indoor flea market in the renovated and air conditioned Minot Hall would be an answer to declining attendance. Flea Market Chairman Peter Fournia, W2SKY, did a good job of laying out Flea Market spots both indoors and outdoors, but the outdoor venue proved most desirable over the thirty dollar indoor spots. In 2008, Assistant Hamfest Chairman Richard Goslee, KG2I, helping to oversee a reduced two day event, saw the last Rochester Hamfest to be held at the Dome Arena.

Enter the Barnard Fireman's Field era. 2009 brought a new venue and a new name, now "The RARA Hamfest and Technology Expo and Atlantic Division Convention." We all knew it as the Rochester Hamfest. The 'fest was cut way back occupying one day with minimal programming and involvement by ARRL folks despite the Convention title. The Flea Market dominated the day and attendees seemed pleased. This format seemed acceptable to Chairman Len Crellin, KC2PCD, and for the next two years, 2010 and 2011, the schedule of events and venue remained the same except for dropping "Atlantic Division Convention" from the name.

2012 brought another new venue for the Hamfest and that was at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Field House providing both indoor and outdoor facilities. The planned indoor Flea Market was lacking execution and most people were just as happy with the outdoor, paved, parking lot. Lessons learned that first year could have resulted in better venue utilization, but RIT's graduation scheduling prevented further access. 2013 brought "Ham-o-Rama 2013" back to RIT and a remote parking lot with an outdoor Flea Market only format. If you only wanted a good flea market this worked for you. If not, you had to go out of state to find anything but a Flea Market centered event with VE testing.

A common and ever increasing theme by organizers over the years has been that they need help in producing these Hamfests. You could talk for days on why the customs of people have changed over the years and why volunteerism

is declining everywhere, but the truth remains it just is. In 2014, RARA had to conclude and announce to the world that there would be no 2014 Rochester Hamfest for the simple reason there was no committee to plan and run it.

Better news followed the next year when RARA President Frank Schramm, WB2PYD, announced there would be a Rochester Hamfest. The event was back at the Barnard Fireman's Field and for attendees, despite the rain, seemed like a good event and the Flea Market only activity seemed to meet current thinking and needs of the customer. What attendees could not see was the trouble brewing between RARA and the Barnard Executives. Subsequent negotiations for a 2016, use of the facilities completely broke down and RARA was forced to look elsewhere.

Stepping up to the plate was Ev Tupis, W2EV, who formed a Hamfest Committee as Chairman and started to work on a 2016, hamfest. Despite a late start that seriously hampered the ability to find open dates at available venues, Ev's team had been successful in planning for a date with the venue being Eastman Business Park, 200 West Ridge Road in Rochester.



Flea Market, 1962



2023 RaRa Hamfest Breakfast Menu

BREAKFAST SERVING 6 AM TILL GONE!!

Breakfast Sandwich _____ \$4.00
*Sausage/Egg/ Cheddar Cheese on English Muffin

 Blueberry or Banana Nut "BIG Muffin" _____ \$3.00

Fresh Orange Juice (not from Concentrate) _____ \$2.00

Fresh coffee Regular or Decaf 12oz. _____ \$3.00

Bottled Water _____ \$2.00



2023 RaRa Hamfest Lunch Menu

SERVING LUNCH 10AM TILL GONE!!



Pulled Pork sandwich _____ \$8.00

Baked Beans *Texas style* _____ \$3.00

Coleslaw _____ \$3.00

Texas Meal deal: Sandwich w/1 side & drink _____ \$12.00

If you are really hungry meal deal w/both sides _____ \$13.00

Hamburger _____ \$5.50

Cheeseburger _____ \$6.00



Hot dog red or white _____ \$4.50

* Chips _____ \$1.00

Rochester famous "Nick Tahoe's" Meat Sauce available add \$.50 cents

"Combo deal" 1 hotdog or Hamburg with chips and drink _____ \$ 7.00



Italian Ice: Tropical, Strawberry, Lemon _____ \$2.00

Pepsi/ Coke/ Sprite Soda _____ \$2.00

Fresh coffee Regular or Decaf 12oz. _____ \$2.00

Bottled Water _____ \$2.00

Tech Logistics & Services Hamfest Menu

ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2023 DIRECTIONS

The Rochester Hamfest site is located in the village of Hilton on Rt 259. This is a major north / south route and is accessible from the I-490, NY-531 expressways and the Lake Ontario State Parkway. See the map and list of directions.

From the NYS Thruway I-90 eastbound from Batavia.

Exit the Thruway at exit 47, continue straight out of the tollbooth on to I-490. Take I-490 north and east to the RT-259 exit. Turn left off of the exit driving north toward Hilton. Hilton Exempt Club is on the left.

From the NYS Thruway I-90 westbound from Canandaigua.

Exit the Thruway at exit 45, continue straight out of the tollbooth on to I-490. Take I-490 north and west through the city of Rochester. Exit 490 on to RT-531. Continue on RT-531 to the RT-259 exit. Turn right off of the exit driving north toward Hilton. Hilton Exempt Club is on the left.

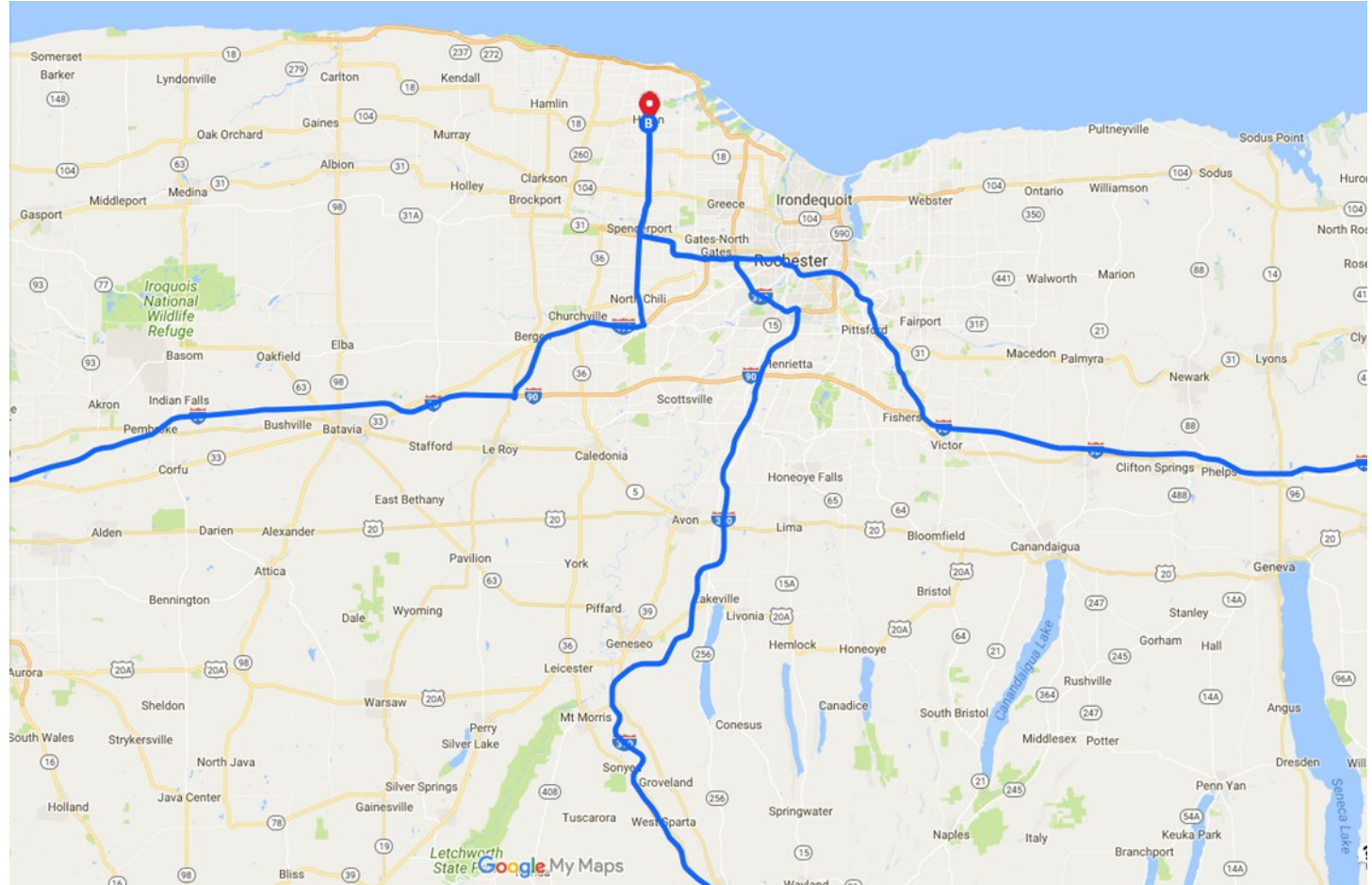
From I-390 northbound from Avon.

Continue on I-390 north and west through the split with I-590. Exit I-390 at the I-490 intersection and go west on I-490. Exit I-490 on to RT-531. Continue on RT-531 to the RT-259 exit. Turn right off of the exit driving north toward Hilton. Hilton Exempt Club is on the left.

From Lake Ontario Parkway.

Turn south at the RT-259 exit. Proceed south through the village of Hilton. RT-259 make a left then right turn in the village. Hilton Exempt Club is on the right.

MCARES will be operating the K2JD talk in station using 146.550 Simplex, no PL



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